

Double-ended Staging Yard

"Staging.scarm" is an extremely versatile Staging Yard that will fit on a single module. The yard is double-ended, so it can serve as both the beginning and end of the layout. Furthermore, it contains a through track, which facilitates continuous running when not being used as a spur. A runaround track is connected to this through track, although it will probably be used as a spur instead (remember, being a yard that is not on view, you can push rolling stock by hand past the locomotive, to switch ends).

The yard has 3 dedicated spurs in one direction, and 2 in the other. The side with the two dedicated spurs would normally use the runaround track as its third spur, balancing the load to three spurs on each side. The through track and the runaround could be used by either side, giving one side up to 5 spurs, and the other side up to 4. Note that in a Staging Yard, where you know the order of departure, it is acceptable to park over a turnout.

All turnouts and curves are O-54, which will accommodate all semi-scale rolling stock. There is at least 4-inches between tangent tracks, and 2-inches from the front and rear edge of the module. Spurs are maximum length, and except for the most frontward spur (add if desired), all have been optionally equipped with uncoupling tracks.

There is no scenery on the module, as being a fiddle yard you will need the open space for your arms, as you pickup, turn, rearrange, and add/remove rolling stock. When staging for a session, remember to always leave an empty spur for incoming traffic (the through track is a possibility, as once the rolling stock has arrived, you can then lift it from the track and place it on a shelf).

TIP: You should consider cutting track sized grooves in the lower right corner of the module, so you could temporarily set down rolling stock while rearranging trains. Grooves are better than raised trackwork, as the flush surface could then continue to be used as the place where you temporarily set down your freight car loads. A simpler approach is to cover the area in low pile carpeting (no higher than about 1/8 inch).